

TESTIMONY OF Marie Montpetit,
Massack Memorial Residential Care Home
IN OPPOSITION TO

HB 6350- AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the appropriations committee: My name is Marie Montpetit and I am the owner of the Massack Memorial Home, a nineteen bed Residential Care Home on Davis Avenue in Vernon, CT. My home provides 24 hour a day care and takes care of adult disabled people.

My residents include, but are not limited to, mentally ill people with a variety of mental, physical, and medical impairments such as heart transplant, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, blind, hypertension, deep vein thrombosis, incontinence, and the like. Our home is highly regulated by the State of CT Department of Health as well as the State of CT Fire Safety.

Please be very aware of what we do. The obvious includes preparing meals, snacks, offering some recreation, and supervising and administering medication. We insure residents are bathed, dressed, and we make their various medical appointments and transportation arrangements to a variety of specialist including medical, dental, and psychiatric appointments. Many of our residents are brought by manager to doctors appointments because of their diminished mental capacity.

We are also responsible for the upkeep and safety of the facility and residents. We do regular fire drills, auxiliary light and fire extinguisher checks, water temperature readings. We educate our staff monthly and there is a constant and vigilant check to maintain the safety and cleanliness of our home.

Furthermore, we moderate disputes and grievances for our staff and residential community.

We offer employment opportunities to the community. We hire and maintain a staff of 12 individuals. We administer a small Simple IRA plan, offer Health and Dental insurance. We pay taxes, liability, worker's comp, and property insurance.

We do an expensive cost detailed report yearly for the state of CT. All years are audited although never in a timely fashion.

Please realize that the state has cut our costs to the bone; i.e., in over ten years there has been no real wage growth. Capped areas include dietary, laundry, housekeeping, and most recently although required to use a business card such as American Express or Sam's Club, the yearly fees for these cards are no longer recognized as an office expense but are now put in another capped area of Fees and Dues. Rate of \$2488.69, or \$81.82/day will be reduced to \$2341.78 or \$76.99/day.

As I speak, the state of CT is deducting my 2003 Town and Country vehicle that I used as a down payment for my 2011 Town and Country. When and where did the state have rights to my property and why cannot things be shown in writing. My request has been refused and my rate has been in dispute for over 6 years and I have asked for an appeal each year which has not been granted or even recognized. I have asked for an economic hardship relief to the state of CT Department of Social Services Certificate of Need and Rate Setting.

Although they have requested further paperwork and have assured me that they would help my home on five different occasions, yet nothing has been done.

I can assure you there is no legitimate way to make any money from Residential Care. You can only expect a wage and health insurance, and perhaps maintenance and improvement of your property.

The four years of frozen rates have forced me to personally finance my business through accessing my personal home equity line and offering personal loans; adding insult to injury, the state does not recognize finance charges. I feel I am personally paying for the disabled citizens of CT and that the state is taking advantage of me and other Residential Care Homes which are providing a tremendous service. I ask that you please uncap residential care home rates.

Thank you.